

Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment –AI/AN Grants
Questions from Prospective Applicants

13. QUESTION: The initial announcement states that there needs to be a separate budget narrative for each of the two years of the program. However, under the page limits, only a six-page limit is given for the budget narrative (page 18). Is that a six-page limit for each budget narrative or a combined six pages for both budget narratives? In addition, another section states that the budget narrative should be limited to 4 pages (pages 19 and 37). Please provide clarification.

ANSWER: Because of the inconsistencies in the FOA, CMS will allow a total of up to six-pages for each budget year for the combined presentation of the budget and the corresponding budget narrative. Therefore, for each budget year, both the SF-424A and the budget narrative should not exceed a total of 6 pages. As this is a 2 year grant, a total of 12 pages may be submitted, to encompass the total budget period – 6 pages for each year, to include both the budget and budget narrative. The budget and the budget narrative may be single-spaced.

14. QUESTION: We were not able to submit a letter of intent. May we still submit a proposal?

ANSWER: Yes, even though you did not submit a letter of intent, you may still apply for a grant. Proposals are due June 30, 2014, by 3:00 pm ET.

15. QUESTION: It appears food is not allowed for enrollment events. We have tried offering raffles and door prizes with minimal success. Our population appreciates events and gatherings with food and we are interested in having enrollment events offering a dinner/lunch/breakfast. Many of our people that would qualify for Medicaid are often in an income level where a meal is appreciated and part of our culture is to include food in our gatherings.

ANSWER: While we appreciate the cultural importance of offering food at community gatherings, food is generally not an allowable grant expense. However, if the purchase of food ties into the goals and objectives of the grant program and is a reasonable cost, it may be considered allowable. Any proposed food costs should be reasonable and modest with respect to the total budget.

16. QUESTION: Our organization represents over forty tribes in three different states. If we partner with tribes in one state, under the consortium or coalition approach you described, may we still partner with tribes from other states? Essentially, our organization would then be a partner in more than one application.

ANSWER: Yes, you may be a partner under more than one consortia or coalition applying for this grant. However, any given organization can be the lead organization on only one application. In addition, a lead organization, must be an eligible entity as described in Q6 of the first set of Q/As. In the event your organization is part of more than one grant award, we would make sure that you are not reporting the same outcomes under multiple grants and that duplication of federal funds does not occur.

17. QUESTION: We're a tribal health system and a past grant recipient. For this application, we want to provide stipends for referrals from local tribal agencies, like our WIC or child care programs. The stipends would be given to the tribal programs for successful applications that the tribal program referred. Our goal would be to create a kind of pre-screening process where if a tribal program referred an applicant to us, and the application was approved, then we could provide the tribal program with a referral fee in the form of a stipend.

ANSWER: Stipends are allowable as long as you consider the purpose and the reasonableness of the stipend as it contributes to the enrollment and renewal of children in Medicaid and/or CHIP. If you offer stipends, you need to make sure the stipend is clearly linked with a successful outcome (e.g., an approved application for Medicaid or CHIP). The stipend also must be reasonable in two ways: 1) the actual dollar amount paid should be reasonable; and 2) the amount as a proportion of your total budget should be reasonable. For example, if you have a \$250,000 grant, you should not be spending \$200,000 on stipends.

18. QUESTION: Our organization is applying as a coalition in partnership with an urban program. How will funding break down between different partners in the coalition?

ANSWER: The lead entity for the grant application is responsible for presenting the partnerships involved in the grant's operations and the role each partner will play. The lead entity should discuss with each partner the contribution it will make toward achieving the goals of the grant and the amount of grant money that will be allocated to the partner, in the event the proposal is successful. The lead entity should supply the details in the workplan, timeline, budget, budget narrative, and an explanation how the lead applicant and the partners will cooperate if awarded the grant.

19. QUESTION: I'm from a highly rural location with a small population. Is there a disadvantage in requesting a small amount of money? Could I be disqualified if I ask for a significantly lower amount of money than other applicants?

ANSWER: No, you won't be penalized or disqualified for requesting an amount of money lower than the range described in the FOA. While we anticipate grants between \$250,000 and \$500,000, we didn't mean to imply that \$250,000 was a bottom threshold. If you think you can accomplish the goals of your proposal for less, then that is acceptable. Keep in mind that your budget has to make sense with respect to the needs of your community, the capacity of your organization and the goals you set for your organization under the grant.

20. QUESTION: I'm from a small tribal community with no more than 300 members. Do you think our area is too small to apply for this grant?

ANSWER: No, under this grant opportunity there is no minimum with respect to the number of eligible children you are expected to reach and enroll. If there are children in your tribal community who are eligible for Medicaid and CHIP but not enrolled, or who may need help with renewal, and you are an eligible entity, we encourage you to apply

for this grant opportunity. You may also want to partner with other organizations in your area to expand your proposed strategies to a broader population.

21. QUESTION: By focusing on one of the four focus areas, does that limit our ability to include activities related to the other focus areas in our application?

ANSWER: You must designate one focus area that best describes your approach to outreach and enrollment. (Note that this is worth 5 points in the review of your proposal.) There could be some overlap with other focus areas. For example, if you determine that your primary approach is school-based outreach, but you plan to work only in high schools, you could choose Focus Area 1 (school-based strategies) or Focus Area 3 (enrolling teens).

22. QUESTION: The grant award amounts are for a 24-month period. Is the award amount for each year? For example, if we are awarded \$250,000, is that \$250,000 each year or \$250,000 over a period of two years (\$125,000 per year)?

ANSWER: The award amount is your total over a period of 24 months. So in your example, if your grant award amount is \$250,000, then you would get a total of \$250,000 to be disbursed over a period of up to two years. The proposed distribution of your funding, over the two-year budget period, should be detailed in the budget and budget narrative in your grant application. You do not have to divide the amount awarded into 2 equally funded years. For example, for a \$250,000 grant you do not have to propose a budget of exactly \$125,000 per year. Your two-year budget should reflect the costs for activities you propose to undertake if awarded a grant within the timeline you propose.

23. Question: We are an eligible urban Indian organization interested in applying for this grant and would like to apply under Focus Area #2. “Incorporating health coverage outreach and enrollment into the routine activities of programs administered by tribal agencies.” However, because we are located in an urban center, programs administered by tribal programs are not accessible to us. Can we apply under Focus Area #2 but incorporate outreach efforts with local programs, such as WIC or other programs, in our urban community that provide services to American Indian families?

Answer: Yes, it would be acceptable for an urban Indian organization to apply under Focus Area #2 and incorporate outreach and enrollment activities with local programs in their urban communities that provide services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. As explained on page 26 of the FOA, the purpose of the focus area is to identify children and parents eligible for Medicaid and CHIP using information from other benefit programs or to facilitate enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP by building on intake procedures of other programs. By changing the programs administered by “tribal” agencies to programs administered by “local or urban” agencies does not change the intent and purpose of this focus area.